

**BOROUGH OF WILKINSBURG COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Planning Session**  
**August 3, 2011**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Moore called the meeting to order at approximately 7:06 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Ave., Wilkinsburg, PA.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Present were: Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, President Moore, Mayor John Thompson. Also present were Marla P. Marcinko, Borough Manager, and Matt Racunas, Esquire from the Law Offices of Patricia McGrail, L.L.C. and Borough Solicitor. A quorum was established.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A moment of silence was observed to honor all service men and women and in remembrance of all victims of violent crime.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**David Wilson – Eastern Area pre-Hospital Services** – Provided the monthly report for July, 2011. Average response times for the month of July are as follows: lights and sirens seven point three minutes (7.3), no lights and sirens response time seven point five (7.5) minutes, E-0's (most life threatening situations) average response time six point seven (6.7) minutes, E-1's average response time seven point three (7.3) minutes. There was a total call volume of three hundred thirty six (336) calls with a total of two hundred thirty-one (231) transported in Wilkinsburg. Eastern Area Pre-Hospital Services moved into their new station in Wilkinsburg and made some improvements to the building. Mr. Wilson hopes to see improved response times due to a local location. President Moore questioned if most calls are non-life threatening. Mr. Wilson responded that most serious calls are diabetic/cardiac related and he hasn't noticed an increase of calls due to the heat.

**Wilbert Wright – 1315 Clark St.** – Distributed flyers regarding the Senior Roll Call program sponsored by the District Attorney's Office of Allegheny County. James Wade, Financial Counselor for PNC, can assist if denied by the Department of Public Welfare to qualify for medical assistance. President Moore commented that Giant Eagle provides free antibiotics and medications for diabetes treatment. President Moore commented on the Hard Hat Patrol and two recipients who were helped which were Mr. Wright's great niece and nephew.

**Jean Dexheimer – 1227 Rebecca Ave.** – Issued an invitation to Council and Ms. Marcinko to attend a summit in Monroeville next week from 7:00-10:00 PM. Ms. Dexheimer attended a forum in Washington, D.C. at the White House. The program was “First Suburbs Building on America”. The White House is supportive of this organization and their goals and objectives. Ms. Dexheimer will forward additional information if requested by email.

**Judi Roth – 1731 Arlington Rd.** – Stated she is in attendance to request a review of the parking codes in the Blackridge area. There has been an increased amount of on-street parking which she believes is creating unsafe conditions. President Moore questioned if this issue is with visitors or residents. Ms. Roth advised that it is predominantly residents. The parking issues are related to Collins Road and Hollywood Drive. Ms. Macklin questioned whether parking is currently restricted.

**Tom Franzetta – 1722 Arlington Rd.** – Suggested to Council that it may help to establish one-way restrictions on some of the streets or prohibit overnight on-street parking.

**Judie Aribula – 1127 Wallace Ave.** – Questioned whether there are monies available for rehabilitation of homes for seniors. Ms. Evans providing information on programs of which she is aware.

**Terri Supowitz – 310 Hay St.** – Expressed her appreciation and thanks to Council again for enacting the ban on natural gas well drilling.

#### **ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING**

**Ordinance No. 2874**

**Repealing Ordinance 2858 relating to one-way restrictions on Hill Ave. and Mill Street.**

**Moved:** Mr. Cohn

**Seconded by:** Ms. Trice

**Yes:** Ms. Macklin, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Cohn, Ms. Trice, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans, Ms. Ervin, President Moore

**No:** Mr. Lewis

**Motion carried 8:1**

#### **ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING**

**Ordinance No. 2871**

**Amendments to the International Property Maintenance Code.**

**Moved:** Ms. Macklin

**Seconded by:** Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

**Yes:** Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson,  
Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore

**Motion carried**

**Ordinance No. 2872**

**Establish Handicap Parking Space – 1339 Woodlawn St.**

**Moved:** Mr. Cohn

**Seconded by:** Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

**Yes:** Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr.  
Lefebvre, Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, President Moore

**Motion carried**

**Ordinance No. 2873**

**Establish Handicap Parking Space – 712 Whitney Ave.**

**Moved:** Mr. Cohn

**Seconded by:** Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

**Yes:** Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Cohn, Ms. Trice, Ms. Evans, Ms. Ervin,  
Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Macklin, President Moore

**Motion carried**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**11-072**

**Authorizing the execution of the agreement between the Borough of Wilkinsburg  
and Cargill, Inc. for the purchase of rock salt through the SHACOG Purchasing  
Alliance at a cost of \$55.83 per ton.**

**Moved:** Ms. Evans

**Seconded by:** Ms. Trice

Ms. Macklin questioned whether the agreement is with Cargill, Inc. or Morton Salt  
Company. Ms. Marcinko noted and apologized for the error on the agenda and did  
confirm that the resolution was correct.

**Yes:** Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson,  
Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore.

**Motion carried**

**11-073**

**Approving the hiring of Ernestine Stevens as a Records Clerk in the Police Department at the rate of \$15.91 per hour in accordance with the wage rate established under the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the SEIU.**

**Moved:** Ms. Trice

**Seconded by:** Ms. Macklin

**Yes:** Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Cohn, Ms. Trice, Ms. Evans, Ms. Ervin, Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore

**Motion carried**

**11-074**

**Approving the condemnation and demolition of the following properties with funding provided through the Allegheny County Economic Development Department.**

1112 Swissvale Ave.	233-B-049
1437 Woodlawn Ave.	233-D-146
511 Lytle Way	176-H-291
1419 Center St.	232-J-250
2241 Laketon Rd.	296-P-090
708 Ardmore Blvd.	233-G-225
1125 Glenn/1126 Park Ave.	232-P-034
422 Ross Ave.	175-R-166
1025 Maple Street	232-K-301
1023 Maple Street	232-K-302
1337 Chelsea St.	233-G-285
1570 Clark St.	232-R-265
1315 Swissvale Ave.	232-P-112
514 Campbell St.	233-J-304
521 Campbell St.	233-J-276
1327 Franklin St.	233-G-189
1200 Franklin St.	233-F-329

**Moved:** Mr. Cohn

**Seconded by:** Mr. Lewis

President Moore questioned whether one of the two properties on Maple Avenue had been on the list for a while. Ms. Trice confirmed that to be the case. Ms. Ervin inquired as to whether 1125 Glenn Avenue/1126 Park Avenue was one or two properties. Ms. Marcinko advised that it was one property. Ms. Ervin questioned whether the owner of the property will be responsible for the demolition costs. Ms. Marcinko responded that the property will be lienied for those costs.

**Yes:** Ms. Macklin, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Cohn, Ms. Trice, Mr.

Lefebvre, Ms. Evans, Ms. Ervin, President Moore

**Motion carried**

**11-075**

**Granting approval to the Hill Avenue 500 + Block Club for a street closure on August 13, 2011 between Hay Street and Pitt Streets for the purpose of holding a street fair/yard sale.**

**Moved:** Ms. Ervin

**Seconded by:** Ms. Trice

Ms. McCarthy-Johnson questioned whether the request had been approved by the Police Department. Ms. Marcinko advised that it was approved.

**Yes:** Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore

**Motion carried**

**11-076**

**Approving the hiring of Kim Brown as a Driver in the Department of Public Works at the rate of \$17.64 per hour in accordance with the wage rate established under the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the SEIU and subject to the successful completion of a physical examination to include a blood and alcohol screen.**

**Moved:** Ms. Trice

**Seconded by:** Mr. Lewis

Ms. Macklin questioned whether the physical examination included a drug screening. Ms. Marcinko advised that it did.

**Yes:** Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore

**Motion carried**

#### **REPORT FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

##### **President Moore reported:**

- On her thanks for the residents of the First Ward for their efforts in removing vegetation, particularly Mr. Jack Ward.
- The Wilkinsburg Public Library will participate in the Pittsburgh Day of Giving event on October 4, 2011.
- There will be a major clean-up in the First Ward on Saturday, August 6, 2011.

President Moore advised that Council will not meet the third Wednesday in August and she wished everyone a safe and enjoyable break.

### **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

#### **Capital Planning Committee – Ms. Macklin reported:**

- The Committee met on July 27, 2011 and discussed capital improvements to be funded by the bond issue.
- The Committee received the listing from DPW of the equipment in need of replacement.
- The Committee is waiting on an updated list of needs from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.
- A new philosophy in selecting sites for demolition. “Stopping the Slide” would be a concept supported by the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan. “Stopping the Slide” will consider two or more properties in one block which are blighted and a more holistic improvement approach with demolishing the structure(s), paving the street and enforcing code in that neighborhood. Consideration may be given to the redevelopment of demolition sites as passive parks and/or vegetable gardens. The Committee is accepting input on this from Council, the community, and staff.
- She stated her support of the Eastridge building purchase and efforts to meet with the Library Board to discuss their plans for improvements and funding opportunities. The Library Board will meet again in September.
- The next meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2011 at 6:30 PM.

#### **Finance Committee – Mr. Cohn reported:**

- The meeting is being held early this month on August 4, 2011.
- The Committee will be meeting with bond counsel and financial advisor to discuss the issuance of debt for capital projects, the refunding of the current bond issue and pension bond to fund the liability for the current firefighter retirees.

#### **Personnel Committee – Ms. Trice reported:**

- The Committee met on July 19, 2011.
- The Committee recommended the reappointment of Phyllis Wetherby to the Civil Service Commission.
- An update was provided for all vacancies. The Finance Clerk, DPW Driver, and Police Department Records Clerk positions have been filled. The vacancies for police officer positions are still pending.
- The Committee discussed standardized terms and conditions to management contracts.
- Pension contributions were also discussed and whether an Ethics Board is needed.
- The next meeting will be held on August 10, 2011 at 6:00 PM.

#### **Public Safety Committee Report – Mr. Lefebvre**

- The Committee met on July 20, 2011.
- One-way traffic restrictions on Hill Avenue and Mill Street were discussed.
- Code Enforcement and DPW goals and objectives as well as high priority strategies in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan were discussed.
- The next meeting will be Wednesday September 21, 2011 in Council Chambers at 5:30 PM.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Authorizing the execution of the proposed agreement for the Sale of Commercial Real Estate for the purchase of the First Church of Christ Scientist property located at 1900 Graham Blvd.**

**Moved:** Ms. Evans

**Seconded by:** Mr. Lewis

Ms. Macklin expressed concern regarding funding and the property being income-producing as both RAD funding and direct monies are decreasing. She commented about the importance of receiving a presentation from the Library Board as to how they plan to finance the building purchase and other necessary renovations. She spoke briefly with Library staff about a community center in the building with office space rental to offset building expenses. The Library has not presented a fundraising plan. Ms. Macklin did express that she supported the building purchase. Ms. Marcinko commented that the Library presented a proposal in November when the plan was initially discussed. Council agreed to proceed with the purchase of the property for an amount not to exceed \$200,000. President Moore suggested that the action be taken at this meeting. Mr. Cohn stated that he had toured the building and found it to be a great facility. He further commented that he did not want to jeopardize the purchase and the great work of the Library waiting on a long-term plan which could take time. President Moore commented that a community center would be an asset. Ms. Macklin suggested that the purchase could be funded through the bond issue. Mr. Cohn suggested that a decision regarding financing does not have to be made tonight and that it is a good idea to look at all the options.

**Yes:** Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, President Moore

#### **Motion carried**

Ms. McCarthy-Johnson commented about the utility cut on Center Street between Ramsey Street and Woodworth Street which is sinking. Mr. Cohn advised that there was another location on Center Street between South Avenue and Franklin Avenue which is in need of repair and questioned whether the restoration on utility cuts is required to be made curb to curb.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Authorizing participation in DOE (Dept. of Energy) SunShot Grant**

Ms. Marcinko advised that the goal of this project is to advance solar energy in western PA by creating streamlined processes across municipalities for zoning, permitting and inspection for solar energy systems. CONNECT is seeking participation from the other thirty five municipalities in the group as the City of Pittsburgh has already agreed to participate.

**Moved:** Ms. Evans

**Seconded by:** Mr. Cohn

**Yes:** Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Ervin, President Moore

**Motion carried**

Ms. Evans commented on the importance of participation in CONNECT membership particularly for eligibility for grant monies requiring a larger population base. She commented that grants have been received by CONNECT that Pittsburgh alone and Wilkinsburg alone may not have received.

President Moore reminded everyone to check on the wellness of elderly neighbors with the extreme heat.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, on motion by Ms. Evans seconded by Mr. Cohn the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM.

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Eugenia Moore, Council President